

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

Volume V, Issue XV

JUNE 2005

Set Port Condition YANKEE

In preparation for Tropical Storm Arlene, Marine Safety Office New Orleans has set Port Condition YANKEE in accordance with the Maritime Hurricane Contingency Plan (MHCP). Port Condition YANKEE is set when gale force winds are predicted to arrive at the Southwest Pass Entrance Sea Buoy within 24 hours. Also, the COTP has set Hurricane Condition Two throughout the COTP Zone New Orleans and Morgan City. (You may review the MHCP online at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/nola/>)

Based on the current predictions for Tropical Storm Arlene, the Associated Branch Pilots will not take vessels through SW Pass after 8 p.m. tonight, Friday, June 10. The COTP will coordinate with the Pilots to reopen SW Pass as soon as possible. In order to ensure that the COTP is aware of vessel intentions, you are reminded that all vessels are required to report changes in their NOA arrival and departure information. (33 CFR 160.208, 33 CFR 160.212).

Due to the low risk anticipated with this storm, the COTP has modified the specific actions outlined in the MHCP. The following precautionary measures are provided for your consideration. All vessels and facilities operating below Twelve Mile Anchorage (MM 79) are strongly urged to implement these measures:

- Secure missile hazards and clear nonessential equipment and loose gear.
- Secure/remove hazardous materials or cargos to a safe location, especially drums.
- Oil transfer terminals should drain all loading arms and transfer hoses of product, blank off hoses, and empty/clean small discharge containment.
- Mooring lines doubled up with due consideration given to the effects of predicted storm surge.
- If moored, outboard anchor rigged at a short stay.
- Ensure sufficient number of officers and crew onboard to tend mooring lines, and/or get underway.
- Vessel ballasted to ensure maximum safety.
- All side ports, hatches, portholes, and other openings are closed and secured.
- All fire fighting equipment is ready for immediate use.
- A continuous radio watch maintained on Channel 16 and 67 VHF-FM.
- If at anchorage, at least two anchors set.
- If at anchorage, vessels should remain ready to get underway within 15 minutes.
- Spare mooring lines and/or wires should be readily available.

You are strongly encouraged to review your existing hurricane plan or develop a plan if you do not have one. It is extremely important to decide in advance how to minimize your risk and be prepared to evacuate, if necessary.

Marine Safety Office New Orleans: (504) 589-6196

Marine Safety Office Morgan City: (985) 380-5320

Integrated Command Center (24 Hour): (504) 846-5923/5924

Vessel Traffic Center (24 Hour): (504) 589-2780 or VHF-FM channels 16 or 67

National Response Center (24 Hour): 1-800-424-8802